



Anti-tobacco activists form a human chain in the city yesterday demanding pictorial warning on all tobacco products.

PHOTO: STAR

## Set up directorate to protect consumers' rights: CAB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB) yesterday called on the government to formulate rules under the recently passed Consumers' Protection Law 2009 as soon as possible in order to make it effective soon.

It also demanded establishment of a directorate of consumer welfare by appointing an eligible person so that consumers can lodge their allegations against the consumers' rights violators.

Members of the association made the call at a press conference at its office in the city.

They hoped that the government would enforce the law through a gazette notification immediately.

To create awareness among the common people about the consumers' rights, the association also demanded steps to observe April 1 as National Consumers' Rights Day from the next year as the bill was passed on the day in the Jatiya Sangsad.

CAB President Borhan Uddin said, "Now consumers have got a legal instrument to fight against the violators through passing the bill. If the government establishes a directorate and completes other related activities, it would be effective properly."

He urged the consumers to file their allegations if they find any violations of their rights as the law enforcers with the help of the association can take action against the violators promptly.

Saying the law would help to move forward its anti-adulteration campaign Emdad Hossain Maleque, secretary for Information and Research section of the association while presenting the written speech also vowed to carry their movements to ensure consumers rights.

"The association would launch a website for public to lodge complaints against any alleged organisation soon after the establishment

of the directorate," he added.

CAB General Secretary Kazi Faruk said if the government completes the formu-

lation of the rules immediately and make effective the law by establishing a directorate, CAB would send a set

of recommendations related to its modification as some weaknesses or limitations remain in the law.

## New technique to collect tolls: Trader shot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A trader was shot by a gang of unidentified criminals at his business centre at Kafrul in the city yesterday.

The victim was identified as Abdul Wahab, 55, owner of Saddam Enterprise, a grocer's shop, at Old Kachukhet in Kafrul.

Police said a gang of three armed criminals shot Wahab around 8:15am at his shop as he refused to comply with their order to call at a cellphone number. He was shot in his left hand and leg.

Locals rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was undergoing treatment.

Locals at DMCH said the criminals used the technique to collect tolls in the area.

They said if he called at the cellphone number he would have been asked to pay toll by their (criminals) man at the other end.

## Int'l campaign for rights of climate refugees soon

*Equity and Justice Working Group says climate refugees are 'universal natural persons'*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Equity and Justice Working Group, Bangladesh is going to launch an international campaign to ensure rights of those who will be rendered homeless due to the sea level rise resulting from the global climate change.

Termed the climate refugees 'universal natural persons', the group will urge the international and national organisations, including the UN, to develop a legal framework, supposedly under UNFCCC, to rightly address their rights.

Equity and Justice Working Group officials told this at a press conference at the National Press club yesterday where they highlighted the possible sufferings of climate refugees.

Despite many conferences and international meetings on climate change issues, no legal framework has been developed until now to protect the rights of climate refugees, they said.

The first assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released in April 1990, estimated that 150 million people could be displaced by 2050 globally. Now the experts predict that the situation even going to be worst, as one person in every 45 people in the world would be displaced due to climate change by 2050.

The definition of International Refugee Convention 1951 does not cover those who will be forced

to leave their home due to environmental reasons. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) would not be able to recognise them as refugee under their convention.

The Equity and Justice Group officials said they will launch an internet-based signature campaign and forward it to the UN Secretary General and other international organisations.

Besides, they will form human chain and hold rallies and seminars on the issue ahead of the International Refugee Day to be observed on June 20.

Secretary General of Equity and Justice Group Md Shamsuddoha and Convenor Razaal Karim Chowdhury spoke at the press conference.



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